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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING PUBLIC AND CHARTER SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO PARENTS OF ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE SIXTH GRADE REGARDING HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINATIONS.

WHEREAS, human papillomaviruses are a group of over one hundred fifty related viruses; and

WHEREAS, human papillomavirus infections are the most common sexually transmitted infections in the United States, with more than half of sexually active people being infected with one or more human papillomavirus types at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, sexually transmitted human papillomaviruses are either low-risk, which do not cause cancer but may cause skin warts, or high-risk, which can cause cancer; and

WHEREAS, nearly all cervical cancers are caused by human papillomavirus infections, and only two human papillomavirus types account for approximately 70 percent of all cervical cancer cases; and

WHEREAS, human papillomavirus infections have also been found to cause cancer of the oropharynx, which is the middle part of the throat, including the soft palate, the base of the tongue, and the tonsils; and

WHEREAS, there are known, reliable methods and vaccines to prevent certain types of human papillomavirus infection; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that the vaccination process be completed before a student enters seventh grade; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular

Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, each public school and charter school is encouraged to annually provide to each parent or guardian of a student who is enrolled in the sixth grade at that school information on the availability of a vaccination to help prevent human papillomavirus infection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the information should be approved by the Department of Health for dissemination by the Department of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the information should include, at a minimum, the connection between human papillomavirus and cervical cancer, as well as other cancers and diseases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the information should also notify the parents or guardian that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that the vaccination process be completed before the student enters seventh grade; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Director of Health, and Public Charter School Commission.

OFFERED BY:

JAN 2 3 2015